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# the pleasure horse

A NEW ENGLAND COOPERATIVE PUBLICATION



# The Pleasure Horse

## Its Selection, Care, and Management

This publication is a regional New England bulletin, compiled and edited by the Light Horse Committee of the New England Land Grant Universities, composed of staff members of the Universities of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont.

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This bulletin was written as a basic guide for 4-H horse club members and adult beginners.

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## It's A Pleasure

What is a pleasure horse? To me a pleasure horse should be a horse that can be taken out any time, any place, and ridden with a maximum of enjoyment and a minimum of anxiety. A horse that is a good companion, easy gaited and alert. He should be sturdy enough for a long ride, agile enough for log-hopping or climbing banks, and steady enough to cross bridges and keep his head if plunged suddenly into mud that is hock-deep. These qualities should be combined with a pleasant appearance since any ride is enhanced by the knowledge and pride of having a handsome horse under you.

... Helene M. Zimmerman

## Types and Breeds

Horses are classified as either *draft* or *light* horses. Draft horses are the heavier, more muscular animals used for work. Light horses include carriage and harness horses as well as those used under saddle.

Light horses are usually classified according to the use to which they are best adapted. Thus, there are carriage or harness horses which in the past were used as means of transportation. Today, this type of horse is used primarily in the sport of harness (sulky) racing. The Standardbred is the breed exclusively devoted to this sport. Other than their use for racing, harness horses now are kept only for show and pleasure. The Hackney breed is the most popular carriage horse for show purposes because of its flash and trappiness. Morgans, a versatile breed, are also shown in harness classes. There are several other breeds, such as the Cleveland Bay, which have all but disappeared.

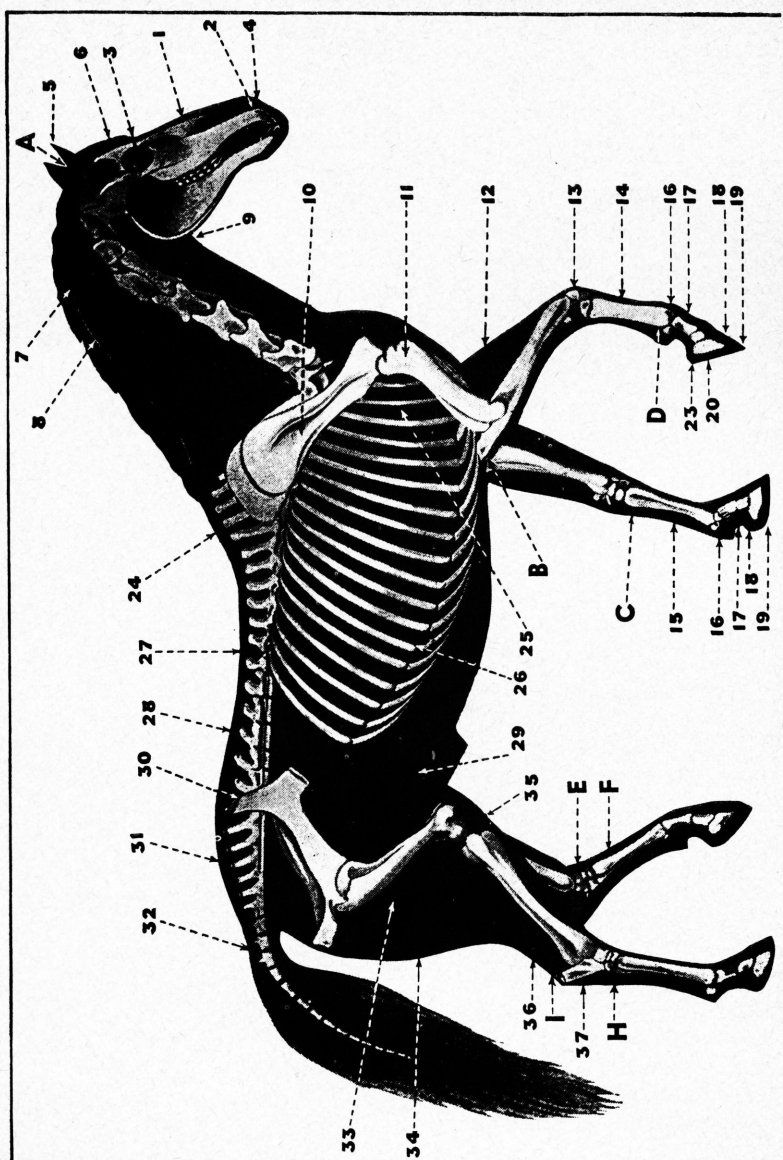
Horses are used under saddle for many different purposes: sport, pleasure, and work. The Thoroughbred is unexcelled on the race track and as a jumper and hunter. The speed, stamina, and size of Thoroughbreds make them well suited for these sports.

The breeds most popular as pleasure mounts are the American Saddle Horse, Tennessee Walking Horse, Palamino, Morgan, and Arabian. The American Saddle Horse is the breed which is adapted and trained to perform in the three- and five-gaited saddle classes. It is noted for its spirit, flash, and trappiness.

The Tennessee Walking Horse has a background similar to that of the American Saddle Horse, except that it has been bred to travel at a gait called the running-walk (in addition to other gaits), which is very smooth and pleasant for the rider.

The Morgan is a versatile horse originating in New England. It is particularly noted for its calm disposition, ruggedness, and endurance. Because of these qualities, the Morgan is frequently used as an all-around family pleasure horse.

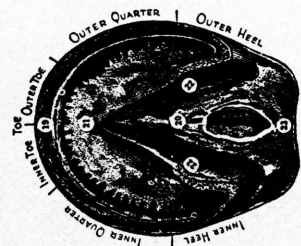




The skeleton of the horse, showing the location of the bones, the degree to which the skeleton and the muscle influence the form, and also the location of the various parts and location of unsoundnesses, when present.  
Courtesy "Horse & Mule Power"  
After Craig.

E. Bone Spavin—Site of Bog and Blood Spayins, usually slightly above this—Site of  
H. Curb—Site of  
I. Thoroughpin—Site of

35. Stifle.  
36. Gaskins or lower thigh.  
37. Hock.  
A. Foil Evil—Site of  
B. Capped Elbow—Site of  
C. Splint—Site of  
D. Windgall—Site of



1. Face.
2. Nostrils.
3. Eye.
4. Nose.
5. Ear.
6. Forehead.
7. Neck.
8. Throatlatch.
9. Shoulder.
10. Arm.
11. Forearm.
12. Knee.
13. Cannon.
14. Tendons.
15. Fetlocks.
16. Pastern.
17. Foot.
18. Horn of Foot.
19. Frog of Foot.
20. Sole of Foot.
21. Bars of Foot.
22. Heel of Foot.
23. Withers.
24. Chest.
25. Ribs.
26. Back.
27. Loin.
28. Flank.
29. Hip.
30. Croup.
31. Tail.
32. Thigh.
33. Quarter.

## "THE PLEASURE HORSE"

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The Arabian is the oldest of the breeds, and has contributed to the formation of all other breeds of light horses.

The Palamino is distinctive because of its color — golden, with flaxen mane and tail — and may be of any breed.

Stock horses are those used to handle cattle in the western states. The most popular breed for this purpose is the Quarter Horse, so named because of its speed at the quarter-mile. The Morgan, Mustang, and Appaloosa are also used as stock horses.

## Selection

In the show ring, pleasure horses are judged primarily on manners, suitability, and performance. The term "*manners*" means good behavior. "*Suitability*" refers to how well the horse fits the ability of the rider or driver. "*Performance*" indicates the ability of the horse to do the work expected.

Other points considered in judging are type and conformation, quality, substance, presence, style, and brilliance. One other factor which is assumed to be present is soundness. "*Conformation*" refers to the way the horse is put together or built. "*Type*" compares his conformation to the job for which his breed was intended. For example, the heavy short-legged draft horse has good conformation to pull loads, but is not the type (is poorly fitted) for racing. "*Quality*" is determined by the fineness of skin and bone. "*Substance*" means strength, and is indicated by muscling and bone. "*Presence*" includes such factors as personality and carriage, or bearing. "*Style*" and "*brilliance*" cover flashiness and ability to show to good advantage. "*Soundness*" is all-important, and means freedom from defects and blemishes of all kinds. The term usually refers to the legs of a horse, but also includes his eyes and wind (breathing). Most horses are serviceably sound. This means that the defects or blemishes present will not interfere with their usefulness. The absolutely sound horse is hard to find.

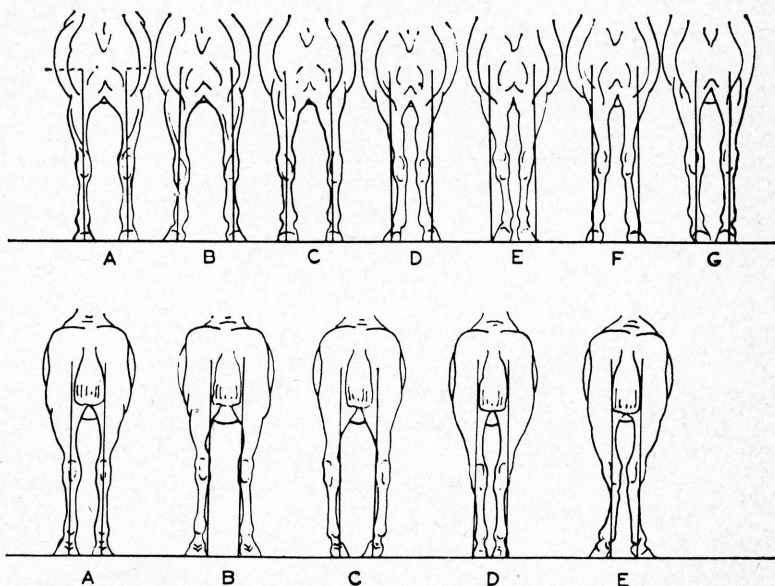
With the foregoing characteristics in mind you will find the following outline helpful in selecting a horse, or in sizing up the horse you already own.

1. General appearance — Look for overall beauty as indicated by symmetry, balance, quality, substance, presence, and style.
  - a. Age: Ability to determine age, by noting eruption and wear of the teeth, comes with experience.
  - b. Height: Measure in hands (4 inches) at withers. Most saddle horses run between 14½ and 16 hands. In selecting a horse, keep the size of the rider in mind, and avoid extremes.
  - c. Weight: Usually a horse will weigh 950 to 1150 pounds, depending on condition and use.
2. Feet and legs — A horse's usefulness depends upon his ability to pull loads or carry them on his back. All the force necessary for these jobs depends on his feet and legs, thus the adage:

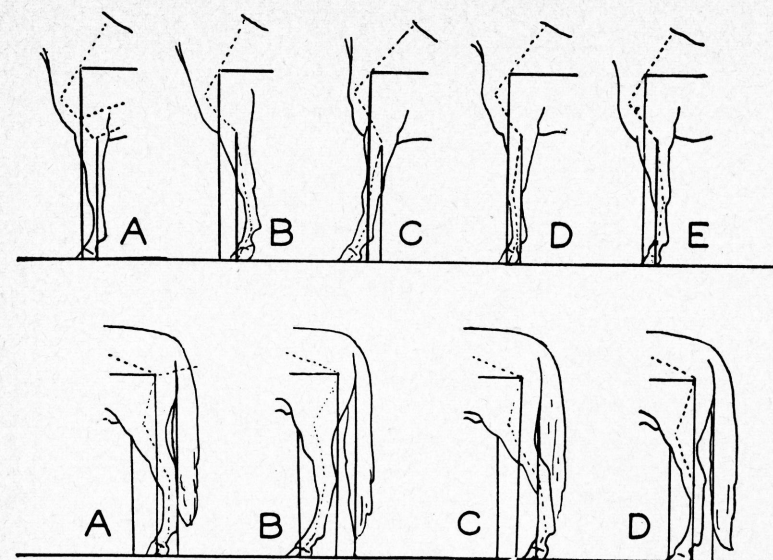


"No foot, no horse." Since usefulness is based on underpinning, feet and legs deserve primary consideration. Learn the correct standing position of the horse when viewed from front, rear, and side. Get used to examining a horse from the ground up.

- a. Feet: Size should be in proportion to the size of the horse. The feet should be round, sloping equally on each side and wide at the heels with an arched sole. The frog should be large, elastic, and in contact with the ground. No irregularities of growth should appear on the wall surface. Avoid contracted heels, narrow feet, dropped sole, and prominent rings in wall.
- b. Pasterns: Look for medium length and a slope to the same degree as the wall of the hoof at the toe. Avoid steep or extremely sloping pasterns, or those with any swellings.
- c. Ankles or fetlocks: These should be large and clean. Avoid blemishes, such as soft swellings (wind puffs) on the ankle or pastern.
- d. Cannons: These should appear broad from the side, with prominent and well defined tendons. Avoid swollen tend-



The proper and faulty direction of (1) the forelegs when viewed from the front, and (2) the hind legs when viewed from the rear. The forelegs: A, represents correct conformation; B, nigger-heeled, splay-footed, or base narrow — forefeet toe out, heels in; C, Bowed legs; D, Knock-kneed — knees set close together with toes pointing outward; E, Conformation predisposing to interfering; F, Knees set close together; G, Pigeon-toed or toe narrow — a conformation which will cause the animal to wing or throw out the feet as they are elevated. The hind legs: A, represents correct conformation; B, hind legs set too far apart; C, Bandy-legged — wide at the hocks and hind feet toe in; D, Hind legs set too close together; E, cow-hocked. The direction of the leg and the form of the foot are very important in the horse. (Courtesy of U.S.D.A.—Bureau of Animal Industry.)



The proper and faulty direction of (1) the forelegs when viewed from the side, and (2) the hind legs when viewed from the side. The forelegs: A, Correct conformation; B, Forelegs too far under the body; C, Forelegs too far advanced; D, Knee-sprung or buck-kneed — over in the knees; E, Calf-Kneed — standing with knees too far back. The hind legs: A, Correct conformation; B, Sickle hocked — hind legs stand too far under the body; C, Legs set too far back; D, Hock joint is too straight. The direction of the legs and the form of the foot are very important in the horse. (Courtesy, U.S.D.A.—Bureau of Animal Industry.)

ons (bowed), or those tied in below the knee. "Bone" refers to the circumference of the leg at the middle of the cannon region, and indicates the substance and staying power of the horse.

- e. Knees and hocks: Joints should be broad and clean with all parts well defined and in line, as shown in the illustrations of proper standing positions in the Lameness section of the booklet. Avoid scarred knees, which point to stumbling. Hocks provide the propelling force of the body, and are thus all-important. Avoid crooked or sickled hocks which denote weakness, and check for any soft or hard enlargements.
- f. Muscling: Prominent muscling indicates substance or strength. The attachment of muscles and their tendons to bone brings about movement and consequently affects ability to work. Shoulder, chest, arms, and forearms in front, and croup, quarters, thighs, and gaskins behind should show adequate development of muscle. Since the "motor" is in the rear, muscling of the hind quarters is most important.
3. Head, Neck and Trunk —
  - a. Head and Neck: Note the proportion to the size of horse.



Eyes should be large and bright, the ears alert, and the neck blending nicely with the head and shoulders.

- b. Withers: Withers should be of medium height to hold a saddle. Shoulders should be well sloped to absorb concussion.
  - c. Chest: Note whether the chest is deep from the side and relatively wide between the front legs.
  - d. Back and Barrel: The back should be short and strong; the barrel round, deep, and well let down at the flank.
  - e. Croup: This should be level, with the tail set high.
4. Action — Action refers to the way of going, or how the horse moves. If he shows proper standing positions and alignment of feet and legs, chances are that he will move straight and true, with the legs of each side following parallel lines. The term "action" is also used to denote the height of flexion of the knees and hocks. Moderate height of action is desirable in a pleasure horse. The extreme height of action seen in show saddle horses or Hackneys is too exhausting to be desirable in a pleasure horse. Straight, true action is more important than high action.
5. Manners — Good behavior is equally as important as conformation, especially in horses for children. Bad manners develop more often from poor management than from inheritance. Manners can be judged only when a horse is purchased on trial.

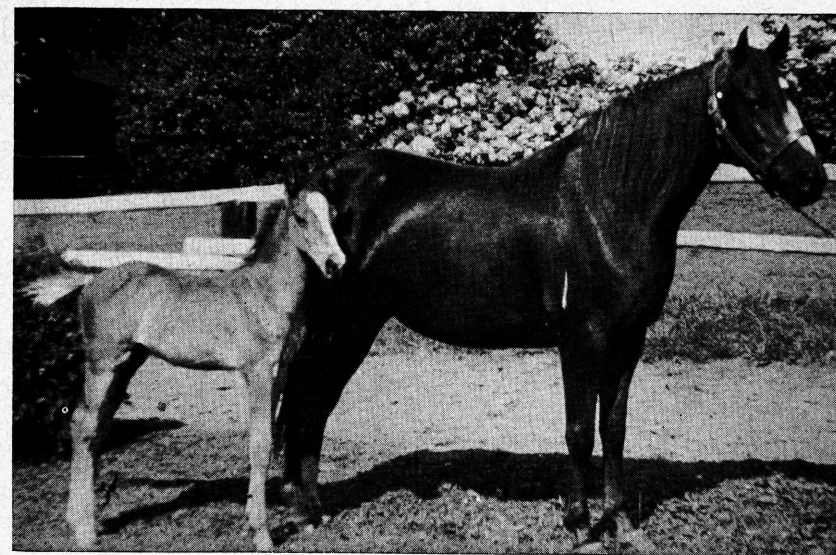
It is obvious that many different factors must be considered in the selection of pleasure horses. The end result should be that the rider is provided with a safe horse. The rest of this bulletin attempts to insure that the horse is provided with a considerate owner.

## Breeding

It is essential for the mare owner to possess a few basic facts concerning the breeding of horses if the successful production of foals is one of his aims.

The natural breeding season for mares is during late spring and summer. The period when a mare is receptive to a stallion is called the heat period. The heat cycle is more regular when the weather warms up and mares get out on green grass. Conception is most apt to occur when mares are bred at this time. The normal heat period ranges from two to seven days, probably averaging about four to five days. The length of time between heat periods averages about 21 days.

It is important to have the mare in a healthy, gaining condition at breeding time. She should be neither thin nor carrying excess fat. Some mares show obvious external signs that they are in heat, such as apparent desire for company, teasing other mares, and more frequent urination. Others show very few outward signs.



Most pleasure horse owners prefer to wait until mares are at least three or four years old before breeding for the first time. This allows the young mares opportunity to develop satisfactorily.

The period of pregnancy in mares is about 11 months, although there is considerable variation among mares. In most cases it is advisable to wait until the 30-day heat period before rebreeding after foaling.

The first sign of pregnancy is the cessation of the heat period. Other methods of determining whether or not the mare is in foal are examination by a veterinarian, and laboratory tests on blood serum or urine. It is more economical to pay for such tests than to pay board on a mare for an extended time at a breeding establishment.

These are some important things to remember when having a mare bred. (1) Be sure she is in a healthy condition. (2) Breed her to a registered stallion that is strong in the points where she shows weakness. (3) Deal with an established breeder of good reputation. (4) If she has a foal and must be away more than five or six hours, take the foal also. (5) Have the terms of the service clearly stated, in writing if possible.

## Feeding

Horse feeding is an art. Hay and oats are basic. Timothy hay has long been the popular roughage because it is generally free from dust. Mixed grass hay may be substituted, and hay from the legumes is especially valuable for growing animals. Corn and barley are practical substitutes for oats. They are heavier feeds, and smaller volumes will provide the necessary nutrients. Commercial horse feeds are highly regarded by many good horsemen.

A common rule is to allow a horse two and one-half pounds of hay and grain combined for each one hundred pounds of live weight. Hard



working, 1,000-pound horses may receive from 12 to 15 pounds of oats and 10 pounds of hay per day. Idle ones may maintain their weights or gain if allowed good quality hay only.

Judgment must be used in horse feeding. Some horses maintain themselves in good condition on minimum allowances of grain. Others must be full-fed. Age, temperament, and many other factors must be considered. Growing colts require more vitamins than mature horses. The legumes and hays contain these if they are well made. Clover and alfalfa may make up a large part of the feed for young horses. Attention should be paid to insure that these are non-dusty and free from mold. Most feeders of mature horses limit the feeding of legumes to one-fourth or one-third of the hay fed. Some horses are subject to digestive disturbances, perspire more freely, and are softer in flesh if the percentage of legume hay is high.

Since the normal working time for horses is during the day, one-third of the grain allowance is often fed in the morning, one-third at noon, and the same amount at night. Some good horsemen feed one-half in the morning and the same at night, with no noonday meal. A minimum of hay is fed in the morning, with the major portion offered at night. Time is a factor in this custom, but the horse is better able to digest this larger amount while resting at night. Dusty hay should not be fed. If it is necessary to do so, it should be very thoroughly dampened with water.

Changes in feed should be made gradually. If corn or barley are substituted for whole oats, the amount should be decreased and the changes made over a period of several days. Corn may be fed whole, but barley should be crushed.

Water is a vital factor in horse management. It should be available at all times, or the horse allowed to drink his fill at least three times a day. It is essential to health and comfort. Immediately after exertion when the horse is heated, only a few swallows should be allowed. It makes little if any difference whether the horse is watered before or after feeding, provided that the same daily schedule is followed.

Commercial mixed horse feeds are widely used. These generally contain molasses and are quite palatable. Some feeders prefer to make up their own mixtures. These may include one-half corn and one-half oats. Four parts of whole oats, four of corn, and one of linseed oil meal is a popular mixture.

Grain is generally fed in clean buckets or mangers. It is customary to feed hay on the floor, but many feeders prefer using an overhead rack to reduce soiling and waste. Horsemen who prefer floor feeding say that it is unnatural for a horse to eat from the overhead rack and that the horse may injure his eyes with dust and chaff. Users of rack feeders emphasize the economy and sanitation of their choice. Perhaps a manger type of hay bunk may offer an excellent compromise, even though it takes up some stall space.

Grain allowances should be decreased when horses are idle. It is common practice and excellent management to feed wheat bran as part of the grain ration on weekends, and to decrease the amount of heavy feeds such as corn and barley. Some of our best horsemen advocate bran only, for at least one or two feeds per week.

Succulent feeds are excellent. Limited grass pasture at night provides comfort and cooling feeds. Any change from dry feed to pasture should be made gradually, with horses turned out for a few minutes at first and the time gradually increased. Silage, either grass or corn, may be used to advantage. It may replace one quarter of the hay fed, and should be fed in limited amounts at first. It is too washy and bulky to be used in large amounts by horses at hard work. It should be free from mold.

Brood mares and young stock customarily go on grass pasture from June through September. There is such a variation in the quality and amount of grasses that these factors are of vital importance. If grass is plentiful, mares may receive no grain even while nursing foals. They should be accustomed to pasture by receiving small amounts at first, with a gradual increase during four or five days. When horses go on pasture for the first time, it is good judgment to feed them the normal amounts of hay and grain before they are turned out, in order to prevent overeating of grass.

Foals may be fed separately in order to make maximum gains. An opening in the fence into a creep, too small for the mare to go through, will provide a place where crushed oats may be fed free-choice to these youngsters. It should be constructed in a shady spot in a location that is popular with the horses. These mares may receive grain. Yearlings should receive the best of early-cut hay plus grain during their second winter. Condition will be the factor in determining amounts.

For mares just before foaling, cooling feeds such as wheat bran are in order. Decrease amounts of all grains fed and continue with limited amounts for several days after foaling.

Salt in block or loose form should be available for all horses in stables or on pasture.

Early-cut, well-cured hay should supply the necessary minerals. A general rule to follow, if calcium and phosphorus are lacking in the ration, is to add one-half ounce of ground limestone and one-half ounce of a special steamed bone meal to each ration daily.

With no class of livestock is the feeder's observation and interest of more importance than with horses. Some horses will maintain themselves in good condition on a minimum of grain while stablemates will grow thin on the same amounts. Some can stand changes in rations, time of feeding, and generally unscheduled programs. However, they are creatures of habit and generally respond to whatever extra consideration is given them in punctuality and attention to details for their comfort.



## Stabling

The proper stabling of horses is dependent upon many factors. There is perhaps no one best recommendation for all situations. However, if one is building new, remodeling, or just improving, there are certain points that should be considered.

1. Location — Consider the stable's proximity to your home and the terrain or lay of the land at its site. Check shelter or exposure, allowing maximum sunlight, especially for adjacent paddocks, yet with adequate shade. Drainage should lead away from the barn and stables to insure sanitation.
2. Materials — If the building is new, consider cinder or cement block construction, especially if hay is stored within, or if the building is to be shared with combustion engines such as the family car. Remodeling within an old structure generally requires the use of wood.
3. Ventilation — Insure some air circulation in the summer, and prevent condensation and moisture in the cold weather.
4. Type of stall —
  - a. A box stall measuring from 10' x 10' up to 14' x 14' is used for a maternity stall.
  - b. A straight stall's size depends upon the horse's breed and size, but usually dimensions of 8 feet from manger to heel post by 5 feet in width are adequate.
5. Flooring —
  - a. Clay is excellent, but is difficult to clean and disinfect.
  - b. Plank may be slippery, wears out, and is difficult to disinfect.
  - c. Concrete may be slippery and cold, but is easy to clean and disinfect.
  - d. Wood peg provides good footing, but is difficult to clean and disinfect, and may be difficult to maintain.
  - e. Cork brick is expensive, but otherwise fine.
6. Equipment —
  - a. Manger: An elevated hay rack is desired by some; a floor manger is popular with others. A grain manger attached to a wall, or a feed bucket in corner of stall are often used.
  - b. Water: A corner water bucket is popular. Water bowls are used by some who know their horse won't overdrink, or who take due precautions in "cooling out."
  - c. Barn tools: You will need a scoop shovel and an eight- or ten-tine fork for handling bedding and manure, a wheelbarrow for manure removal, and a broom for keeping the stable and adjacent area clean.
7. Bedding —
  - a. Shavings are very good if reasonably available, either loose or baled, and if free of dust.

- b. Peat moss — chunk style preferred — is expensive but excellent. It is of high absorptive value and makes excellent humus for land.
  - c. Straw or old hay is usable if not dusty and if the horse won't consume too much of it, especially if worm population is heavy.
8. Sanitation —
  - a. Provide for proper drainage and freedom from stagnant water and insect infestation.
  - b. When disposing of manure, remember that it has a ready sale if you have no home use for it. Keep well cleaned up; during fly time, especially, clean at least two or three days. Clean stalls directly into manure spreader to minimize chores. Darkening and spraying stalls are fine ways to control insects in fly time.
  - c. Disinfect quarters periodically, especially before and after foaling or any health problem.
9. A tack room is nice if warranted. Otherwise, a convenient location near the stall for halter, bridle, saddle, and other tack is desirable. Keep tack in a cool, clean, dry location.
10. Follow these suggestions for feed storage. Hay is generally stored overhead for ease of handling and maximum use of space; it also serves as insulation. Grain may be housed in overhead bins or in floor-level bins—preferably rodent-proofed.

These factors are points for consideration and certainly must be governed by the existing conditions and available funds. The main objective should be clean, pleasant, safe, convenient housing.

## Grooming

Everyday grooming is a "must" for the health and welfare of the horse. Grooming is also a "must" before and after using the animal. It comes under the heading of "proper care," keeping the skin loose, supple and smooth, and the hair sleek and glossy.

Grooming is one of the best ways to get acquainted with and to have an understanding of a horse. It is also a prime requisite in the many progressive steps of training.

First, a rubber currycomb (preferable to the metal type) should be used, going over the horse in firm, circular motions from head to tail. Do not use a currycomb around the bony head structure or below the knees and hocks.

Follow the use of the currycomb with a stiff-bristled cleaning or dandy brush over the whole body, always moving with the hair-growing direction.

A smooth fibered body brush should then be used to go over the entire body, pulling out the fine dust and dirt particles that were missed by the cleaning brush.

Finally use a clean towel or soft cloth to finish the horse, wiping





around the eyes and nostrils and on the soft back part of the pasterns under the fetlocks.

Where the horse has full mane, tail and foretop, use the previously mentioned coarse-bristled or dandy brush, working it smoothly from the base of the hair growth. Pick out hay particles, shavings, burrs, or snarls by hand. Some owners pick the mane and tail by hand as a routine grooming procedure and never use a brush.

Much care should attend the work on the hooves or feet. Always remember the old but very pertinent saying on this subject which was mentioned earlier in this booklet: "No foot, no horse." A hoof pick should be used daily to rid the foot of dirt, manure, gravel, or stones which may be lodged there. Run the pick along the edge of the inside of the shoe between hoof and shoe. Pick out the clefts of the frog from the heel toward the toe. To prevent drying use regularly some preparation for hooves around the coronet and frog, unless the horse is on pasture, where moisture is plentiful.

The parts of the body directly under the tail (the dock) and the udder or sheath should be washed often with warm water and then dried thoroughly. Follow this with a good greasing. Vaseline or any petrolatum is inexpensive and easily handled.

A horse that has sweated after a workout may be rinsed down with warm water, hand-rubbed and walked until dry. During the summer months, depending on skin and hair condition, the horse may be washed with soap and water, and rinsed thoroughly with tepid water.

Whiskers, mane (for an inch and a half back of poll), and fetlocks should be kept trimmed at all times.

During the winter months, when a horse is not in use or when it is placed on pasture, shoes may be removed. However, the feet should still be clipped and rasped regularly.

The shoe should be fitted to the hoof, not the hoof to the shoe. Great care must be taken that the horse does not forge, interfere, or excessively toe in or out. At least every six or eight weeks the shoes should be changed, or reset if they are not worn, the hooves should be clipped and rasped level before replacing the shoes.

## Lameness

Most leg troubles occur from the knee or hock downward. Afflictions of the hind limbs are mainly due to excessive strain. The front leg problems are due mainly to concussion. Proper and continuous care of the feet is the best prevention. Hooves should be pared and trimmed periodically so that the animal will stand squarely on the ground, with feet at about a 45° angle from the vertical axis of the leg. Shoes should be reset at least every six to eight weeks so that the hoof may be pared down to its proper level. Younger animals should not be excessively worked or strained.

"SPAVIN" is an inflammation of the small bones of the hock joint. It is caused by strain and in turn causes a bony growth on their surface. These growths present a sharp surface which causes pain and inflammation as the ligaments and tendons move over them.

"SPLINT" is an inflammation and enlargement of the small metatarsal or metacarpal bones on the cannon. Found in horses under five years of age that are forced to do fast work on hard surfaces. Temporarily, pain may become marked with exercise. Fully formed splint usually results in a blemish only.

"RINGBONE" is a bony growth on either or both of the pastern bones, usually seen in front, just above coronet. It may become extensive enough to fuse bones together.

"SIDEBONE": The wings of the coffin bone just over the bulbs of the heel are normally elastic. They may become hardened and bony, and cause lameness in horses worked on hard roads at a trot.

"NAVICULAR DISEASE" is an inflammation and roughening of a small pulley-like bone deep within the hoof. Once the disease is established, nerving may provide the only relief. Nerving is illegal in some states.

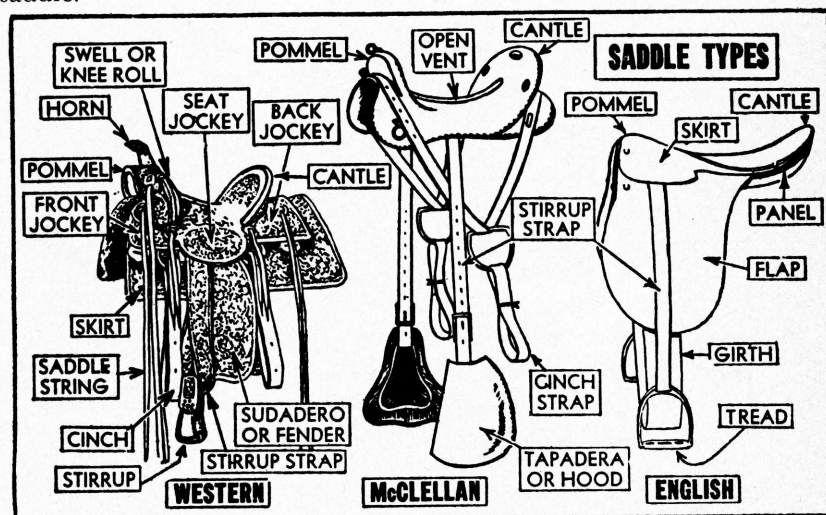
Most of these bone conditions are difficult to clear up. If they are noticed early, treatment may help. Early treatment usually consists of cooling applications. If the affliction is old and chronic, blistering and firing may be resorted to under a local anesthetic. Many other conditions may occur such as tendonitis, curbiness, capped hock, thorough pin and windgalls, all of which are due to hard work or strain. In the majority of these ailments, absolute rest for periods of weeks or months is essential if improvement is to be expected.



## Tack

Proper selection of the bridle and saddle and the subsequent care of this tack is important to both mount and rider.

There are different types of saddles and bridles in use and each type has been constructed for a particular job. The more familiarly known saddles in use in our area are the Western saddle; the McClellan or Cavalry saddle; and, most common of all, the English or flat saddle.



Courtesy of Chicago Tribune

The Western saddle with its deep seat, high cantle and pommel, and horn, was designed for the rugged conditions of the western range. However, many folks in other sections of our country like this saddle for pleasure riding, although admittedly it is rather heavy and a bit unwieldy in comparison to the English saddle.

The McClellan saddle was designed specifically for use by troopers of the U. S. Cavalry and consequently has numerous attachment points for such items as a rifle, bed roll, and saber. This saddle is lighter than a Western saddle and provides a deeper seat than an English saddle. It usually can be purchased quite cheaply.

The English saddle is the type most commonly used in this area of the country, and is required as tack for individuals competing in most horsemanship classes. This saddle is very light and comfortable for both the horse and rider, being very easily handled and easily adjusted for different riders. The beginner is advised to learn in an English saddle, as it will force him to learn the balance and poise which are necessary to a good rider and which he might not develop if he were to start in a Western saddle. A person has a feeling of security in a Western saddle that isn't present in an English saddle; consequently, the shift is rather difficult.

Since the English saddle is most common, it would be well to become acquainted with some of its more important parts.

THE POMMEL is the arched portion which fits over the horse's withers, but which should not rest directly upon them. Usually, this arch is of wooden construction, thus allowing for some flexibility.

THE SEAT is, of course, the lowest part on the top side of the saddle, and is where the rider should be seated. It lies between the pommel and cantle.

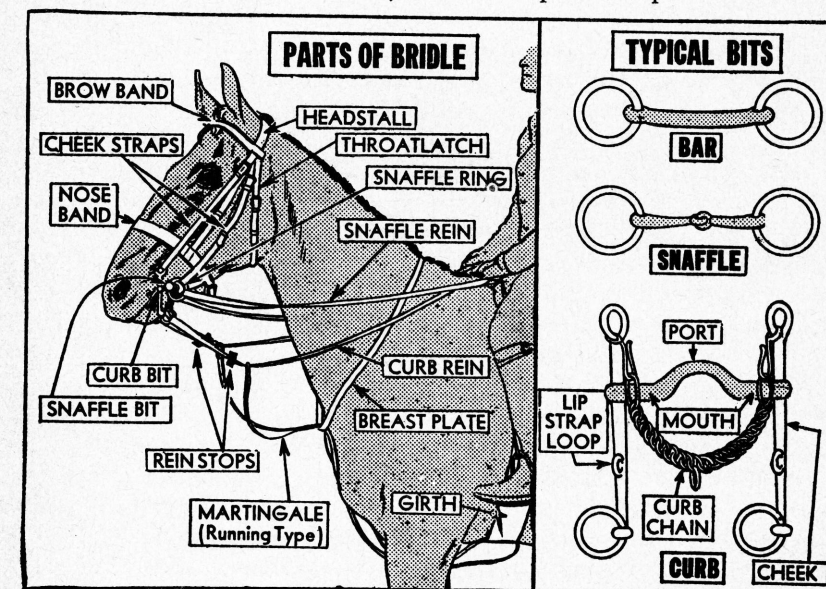
THE CANTLE is that portion of the saddle at the rear which is raised; it provides some support and helps shape the seat.

THE FLAP is the largest of the leather flaps at the sides of the saddle, and protects the rider's legs from direct contact with the horse and girth.

THE SKIRT is the smallest and outermost flap. It covers the "spring-bar" to which the stirrup leathers are attached to the saddle.

THE BILLET STRAPS. There are three of these, two of which are used for attaching the girth to the saddle; the third is a spare. The flap covers these straps.

THE SWEAT-FLAP lies directly under the point-straps and is in con-



Courtesy of Chicago Tribune

tact with the horse, thus protecting the other parts from sweat.

THE BARS are on the underside of the saddle, and distribute the rider's weight along the muscular part of the horse's back on either side of the spine. They are padded and should raise the saddle properly so that it clears the spine.

THE GIRTH is usually a leather band, although it can be canvas. On the other types of saddle, it might be cotton or hair. The girth attaches to the billet straps and goes around the heart-girth area of the horse (behind the front legs).

THE KNEE ROLL varies in size on different types of English saddles. It is that area along the front edge of the flap which provides a place



to fit the knee for security, especially on saddles designed for hunters and jumpers.

THE STIRRUP is made of metal. The tread is often covered with a non-slip rubber pad. The stirrup is, of course, used in mounting, as well as when riding. The straps by which it is attached to the saddle should be inspected often so as to assure that they are not worn thin to the breaking point.

THE BRIDLE is worn over the head and face of the horse and provides the rider with a way to control the mount. Bridles are basically alike. However, some bridles have more than one bit, and consequently require additional leathers for support and control. Bits also vary, but usually fall under three classifications: straight bar bit, snaffle or "jointed bit," and curb bit. The parts of the bridle should be learned and their use understood, for maximum safety and comfort to both the rider and his horse.

THE HEADSTALL OR CROWN PIECE is located just back of the ears and over the head, providing support for the remaining parts of the bridle.

THE BROW BAND goes across the forehead directly below the ears, preventing the bridle from slipping backwards onto the neck.

THE THROATLATCH fastens to the headstall and fits loosely around the throatlatch, serving to keep the bridle from slipping forward off the head.

THE CHEEK STRAPS are also fastened to the headstall and support the bit or bits in the horse's mouth. They should be adjustable to make a correct fit, and to change the bridle's fit for use with more than one horse.

THE BIT may be any of the bits mentioned previously. Two may be in use at the same time with some bridles. The bit consists of a mouthpiece which may be a straight bar, or a bar with a port in the middle, or two bars joined in the middle, thus providing a hinged effect. At either end of the bar will be found a ring to which the cheek strap and reins are fastened. In the case of a curb bit, the bar is attached to a cheek bar which has loops for attaching the cheek strap, and rings at the lower side for attaching the reins. These latter rings are hinged, whereas the cheek strap loops are permanently fixed. The curb bit also usually has a hook fastened at each cheek strap loop, to which a curb chain may be fastened.

THE REINS provide the contact from the rings of the bit to the rider's hands. There may be one or two reins, depending upon the style or number of bits.

## Care of Tack

In selecting the tack for your pleasure or show ring riding, you have made a sizeable investment. To get maximum use over a span of many years from this equipment, you should give it proper care after each use and when storing it.

After your mount has been cooled out, groomed, and stabled, your attention should be directed to cleaning your tack. Usually it will

take 10 or 15 minutes of your time, but the rewards of pliable leather, comfort to the horse, and more years of use will more than repay your efforts.

The equipment needed for cleaning your tack is a bucket, lukewarm water, a sponge, and saddle soap.

To begin, the sponge should be dampened with the lukewarm water and squeezed dry as possible. Then rub the soap into the sponge until it is well saturated with lather—avoid dipping the sponge into the water from this point on until time to clean again, or much of the lather will be lost. Starting with the saddle, use a circular motion when rubbing the leather. The dirt and sweat will be absorbed by the sponge, and the soap deposited on the leather will fill the pores of the leather. Be sure to do the underside of the saddle and all of the leather straps, taking special notice of those areas which get extra wear from contact with metal, such as the buckle straps and stirrup straps. The same care should be applied to the bridle and, in addition, the bit should be rinsed off and dried. If the bit is not to be used for a period of time, apply white vaseline to prevent rusting; wipe the vaseline off just before using the bit again.

## Horsemanship

Horsemanship is the art of making the horse obey your wishes as if he wanted to do so. This art requires not only a willing horse, but also a rider who looks and acts as if he were part of the horse.

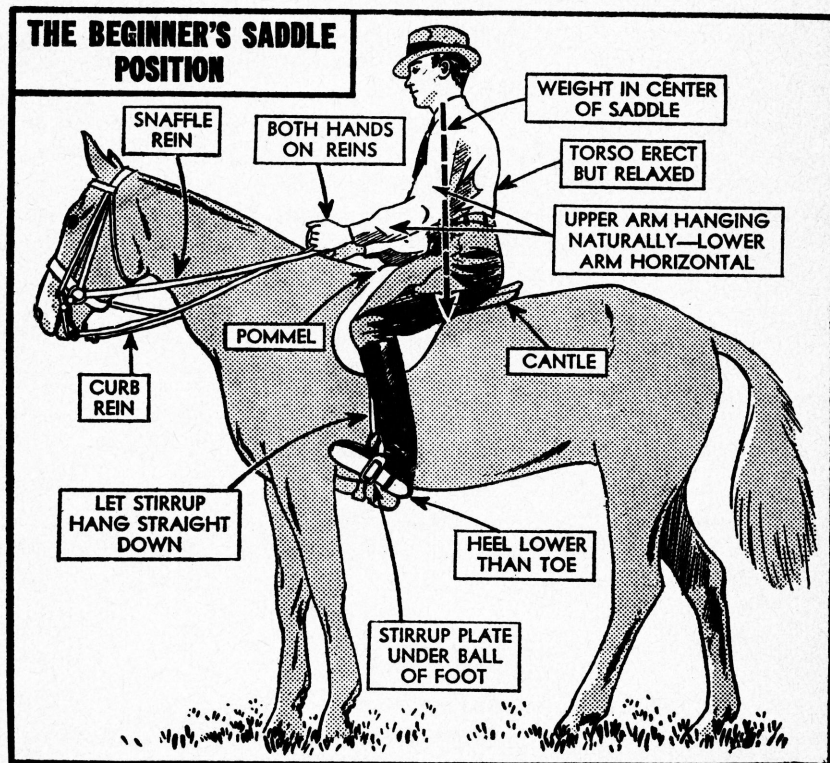
For the sake of simplicity, we will divide the subject of horsemanship into three parts: (1) seat, (2) hands, (3) aids.

THE SEAT should be deep in the saddle. This is best achieved by relaxing the knees, thighs, and back. Squeezing or gripping with the thighs and knees may tend to squeeze you too high out of the saddle and make you stiffen, but a feeling of relaxed "fitting around the horse" gives you a feeling of being one with the horse. The position of the lower legs will depend on the style of riding and the length of the stirrups, but the lower legs should usually hang relaxed under the rider. Suppleness in the small of the back will take up many small jars and bounces, making both you and the horse more comfortable. Your back should be straight or moderately hollowed, with shoulders back and head up.

As an exercise, try rounding your back and shoulders, letting your head drop forward, and see how the knees and thighs fall away from the horse. Now sit tall in the saddle and feel your knees and thighs pull into the horse. Besides the effect the position of the head has on the rest of the body, it is essential to hold your head up if you are to see where you are going. Another good exercise on a quiet horse is to drop your reins and put your hands on your hips or behind your neck. Also, take off a jacket while trotting. If you can do these things, you will know you have a secure seat which is not dependent on your hands.



THE HANDS should work independently of each other and the seat. The way the reins are held will vary some with the style of riding, but for all styles, keep a soft hand and a feel of the horse's mouth through the reins. It is not fair to give the horse his complete freedom and then have to jerk him back into control. Good practice for soft hands



Courtesy of Chicago Tribune

is to have someone hold the bit in his hands while you pretend to stop, start, and turn the "horse." Trade places. How would you react to those hands if the bit were in your mouth?

When reins are held in both hands, they should be held the width of the horse's neck apart. The proper length of rein should allow a straight line between your elbow, held just in front of your hip, through your arm, hands, and reins to the horse's mouth. As the horse lifts his head and increases his speed, your reins will need to be shorter.

THE AIDS are voice, weight, legs, and hands, plus the artificial aids, crop and spurs. The aids are necessary to indicate to the horse your wishes, but the better trained the horse and rider, the less the use of the aids will be noticeable to onlookers.

The voice is the most elementary aid. You can use it to quiet and soothe your horse, to give him a command, or to reprimand him and let him know you mean business. Never underestimate the value of

a kind word and a pat on the neck when your horse is excited or has done well.

The distribution of your weight is of great importance to the horse, and starts with your head. You may have noticed, for example, that if you are afraid of and look at a hole which you want the horse to avoid, the horse will go closer and closer to the hole. On the other hand, if you keep your head up and your eyes on the safer spot where you want the horse to go, the horse will come along safely.

When leaning in preparation for and during a turn, keep your torso in a straight line so that in turning to the right, for example, your weight comes into the right stirrup. Have you ever seen a rider who thinks he is leaning to the right, when really he has "broken" in the waist and his hips and weight have really shifted to the left?

Of course you will want to shift your weight forward, still with a straight but relaxed back, to indicate a faster gait, and to shift your weight back again for a slower one.

Proper use of the legs with the weight will give the horse's performance smoothness and grace. A gentle squeeze of the calves of the legs in their natural position should be enough to make the trained horse move ahead. If a kick is necessary, make it smooth and purposeful, and avoid flopping in the saddle. At the trot, the squeeze or kick should come when you are coming down so that it pulls you into the saddle rather than throwing you up and out. When using your legs to turn a horse, you put your weight into the stirrup on the side to which you intend to turn, and press the opposite leg against his side in back of the girth to make him bend about your weighted inside leg.

Use of the hands probably varies more between styles of riding than do the other aids. Softness with give and take is always desirable. The little fingers may exert all the pressure needed, and should be used before the pull of the whole arm. In making turns, pull the rein of the direction you want to go toward that hip, and release the tension on the opposite rein an equal amount. If you should let your pulling hand cross over the neck by mistake, you will be likely to "break" in the middle as described under the use of your weight, and the turn will be unsatisfactory.

The artificial aids, crop and spurs, may be necessary to wake up your horse and make him mind. Light use of spurs is often more desirable than an awkward kick, but do not get yourself or your horse accustomed to needing these aids, and avoid them until you have good control of your own hands and legs.

There is no substitute for experience and practice in riding to get the feel of the horse. Remember that every time you ride, you are making a good or bad habit stronger in both you and the horse. Try riding other horses when available; you will discover traits you never suspected in both you and your own horse.



## Training

The words "training" and "schooling" are preferred to "breaking" in the education of a colt or horse.

The education of the colt should start almost immediately following birth. Just like a child, a colt can use a lot of loving. We prefer to start grooming and some slight hand-feeding at about ten days of age. Starting the colt gently at this age takes away all but token resistance to his later training.

Perhaps the best plan for the training and education of the colt could be set down as follows:

1. Ten days to five months of age — grooming, haltering, leading, handling feet.
2. One to two years — longeing, long lines, training cart.
3. Two and one-half to three years — saddling and the start of specializing.

Let us start with the early training, up to five months. A handful of oats and a cleaning brush are the basis of the first friendship and understanding. Patience and time are the best training ingredients. If you do not have either, give up the project.

A small leather or rope halter may be carried on the trainer's forearm during hand-feeding and grooming so that the colt can nose and nuzzle and be unafraid of his first clothing. You should be able to slip the halter on after two or three days of this practice.

A short leather strap or rope about 18 inches in length should be snapped to the chin ring of the halter, making it very simple to pick up the colt in passing and lead him a few steps.

An ideal situation in training a colt to lead is to have an assistant lead the mare so that the colt follows the mother voluntarily, with the trainer at the halter shank. One or two days of this will suffice; on the third day, the trainer should be able to lead the colt before or away from its mother.

This period is not too early for loading training. The colt should be led in and out of stalls, into and back out of tie-up stalls, and up and down low ramps. A ramp can be easily and inexpensively set up.

Next, we consider training exercises for the colt between one and two years of age. Generally speaking, start colts on the longe line when almost a yearling. The trainer should begin by leading the colt in small circles, gradually paying out the line to 20 or 25 feet. The use of a longeing whip is often essential at this time for propulsion, although it is not used on the colt but is instead popped behind him. Needless to say, the colt should be longed in both directions at the walk, trot, and canter until he can do this at the spoken command.

During the early spring months when the colt is considered a yearling, he should be fitted to a bit (headstall over a halter) and tied

up for short periods of time until he is completely used to the bit and no longer champs or shakes his head.

Select a small pen or paddock for his first driving lesson and attach long lines to the bit rings. One line should go through the ring on the back pad, while the other line can stay free for use as a longe line if the colt twists or winds up the lines.

When the colt is completely at ease and responds to voice commands and aids in the lines, he may be started in the training cart. Let us emphasize patience once again. Let the colt smell the rig, and walk between the shafts head on. Back the colt between the shafts and let him stand minutes at a time. The colt should be driven only once every three days to assure him of a good rest, growth, and health.

When the colt is used to the bit, the pull of the lines, and the tug of the cart, and will go at ease where the trainer directs, it is nearly time for the saddle.

Fit the saddle and draw up the girths firmly but not too tightly. Take the colt to the training corral, and longe for a few minutes as you did in his early training. This is followed by a stall tie-up period with the saddle still on. Next, stirrups are added and he is longed once again with stirrups flopping. This training should be continued throughout the summer and early fall.

Mounting should first be done in a roomy box stall if headroom allows. A lightweight rider should be used; the trainer stands at the colt's head. After being mounted and dismounted a number of times for short periods each day, the horse should be led in circles with the rider up, until he is completely at ease under the added weight. Then he is taken to the corral for riding. Here he is kept at a walk (and perhaps jog), doing figure eights, backing, and turning at direction until nothing disconcerts him.

He is now about two and one-half years of age and ready for the road, staying out for longer periods of riding as he grows older and stronger.

Specialization is now in order.

## Showing

Showing a horse should be fun. Relax and look happy about the whole business. Your pleasure in showing should come from the fact that you have done your very best to prepare your horse so that he will show to his best advantage. For weeks ahead, you have groomed, fed, and trained him especially to show. You would not show a baby beef, a chicken, or even a vegetable without asking yourself, "Is this animal or plant ready to show?" It is just the same with horses; you have to fit them to show. If, after all this work, your horse goes lame or gets sick at the last minute, it is just bad luck. You leave him at home rather than make a spectacle of him or yourself by trying to show him. That is good sportsmanship and good horsemanship.



## UNIFORM SCORECARD

For 4-H Horse Club Fitting and Showmanship Contests

A. Appearance of Animal	40*	1. Leading	15
1. Condition	15	2. Posing	15
2. Grooming	15	3. Showing Animal to	
3. Trimming & Braiding	5	Best Advantage	10
4. Tack	5	4. Poise, Alertness,	
B. Appearance of Exhibitor	10	Attitude	10
C. Showing Animal			
in the Ring	50		

### Explanation of Scorecard

#### A. Appearance of Animal — 40

1. Condition—15  
Showing normal growth, neither too fat nor too thin.
2. Grooming—15
  - a. Coat, clean and free of stains; hide, soft and pliable. Use hair dressing and powder sparingly.
  - b. Mane and tail free of tangles and clean.
  - c. Hoofs trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally. If shod, shoes must fit and not show undue wear. Clinches smooth.
3. Trimming and Braiding—5
  - a. Excess hair should be clipped or trimmed from fetlocks and around head. Horse may be totally clipped or not, as exhibitor wishes.
  - b. Horse's tail may be braided. Braiding should be neat and of suitable type for the breed.

4. Tack—5  
Cleanliness and neatness.

#### B. Appearance of Exhibitor — 10

1. Clothes and person—neat and clean. Informal riding clothes preferred.

#### C. Showing Animal in the Ring — 50

1. Leading—15
  - a. Enter leading animal at an alert walk clockwise around the ring. Walk on the animal's left side. Hold reins or lead-strap in right hand near the bit or halter, with remaining portion of reins or strap held in the left hand. Hold close enough to bit or halter for secure control. Animal should lead readily at walk or trot.
  - b. Only colts should be shown in halter. Mature horses are shown in a bridle, which should fit properly and be clean.
  - c. When making a turn, the horse should be turned to the right—the exhibitor walking around the horse. This prevents twisting and an awkward position of horse during the turn.
  - d. Lead horse at a brisk walk or trot as judge directs, with animal's head held high enough for im-
2. Posing—15
  - a. Stand in front of horse slightly to the side opposite the judge.
  - b. Pose animal with feet placed squarely. Use only the degree of spread appropriate for your breed or type of horse.
  - c. Face animal upgrade, if possible, with its front feet on a slight incline.
  - d. Do not crowd the exhibitor next to you when leading into a side-by-side position. Do not crowd exhibitor in front when lined up head-to-tail.
  - e. Animal should be led directly forward or backward and around the end of the line when the judge requests that its position in line be changed. Do not lead animal between the judge and the animal he is observing.
  - f. Do most of the showing with reins or lead strap. Avoid kicking horse's legs into position. Never kick hind legs into position.
  - g. When judge is observing the horses, let yours stand when posed reasonably well.
  - h. Be natural. Overshowing, undue fussing, and maneuvering is objectionable.
3. Show Animal to Best Advantage—10
  - a. Quickly recognize the conformation fault of animal you are handling, and show it to overcome this fault. Exhibitor may be asked to change horses.
4. Poise, Alertness and Attitude—10
  - a. Keep an eye on your animal and be aware of the position of the judge at all times. Do not be distracted by persons and things outside the ring.
  - b. Show animal at all times, not yourself.
  - c. Respond rapidly to requests from the judge and officials.
  - d. Always be courteous and sportsmanlike.
  - e. Keep showing until the entire class has been placed, and the judge has given his reasons.

Numbers refer to number of points awarded for each classification.

## "THE PLEASURE HORSE"

25



See the reprint of the 4-H Club Uniform Scorecard, which appears on the facing page.

Most of the classes you will be showing in are the equitation or "pleasure-type" saddle classes: pet pony, English pleasure, Western pleasure, and trail horse. In this class, the horse or pony is not expected to show high action and brilliance, but is ridden on a reasonably loose rein. You should train your horse to a good swinging walk, a square true trot, and an easy well-controlled canter—the slower the better. In Western classes, the trot becomes a jog which is slower and easier to sit to, but it is still a trot. The canter in these classes is called a "lope" which is a canter but is lower to the ground, with less motion up and down. Some pleasure classes also call for the extended trot, which really covers the ground, and for a hand gallop, which we know you would love to do. However, do not race because that will be penalized.

When you show in these classes or in any class, remember this—keep your horse under control at all times. Keep him on the rail to give the judge a good view of him. Work independently; do not play follow-the-leader. Your job is to show your horse to his very best advantage. In doing this, work to keep the proper distance in front of and behind you. To find a space, you may have to cut across the ring, circle back, or pass another horse. It is best to pass at the corners and the short ends of the ring; this is showmanship. However, do not make it "show-off-manship" by circling or cutting across the center any more than absolutely necessary. In passing, try not to "cover" another horse right in front of the judge.

This is the order of the commands almost invariably asked for in shows. The class is called into the ring. Trot right in, turn to your right, and continue trotting until you are well away from the others and in a good space. Then walk. After you are all in and probably walking, the ringmaster will call "Trot." After a while, he will call "Walk," and then, usually immediately, "Canter." After a canter, he will say "Walk and Reverse." "Reverse" means to turn and go in the



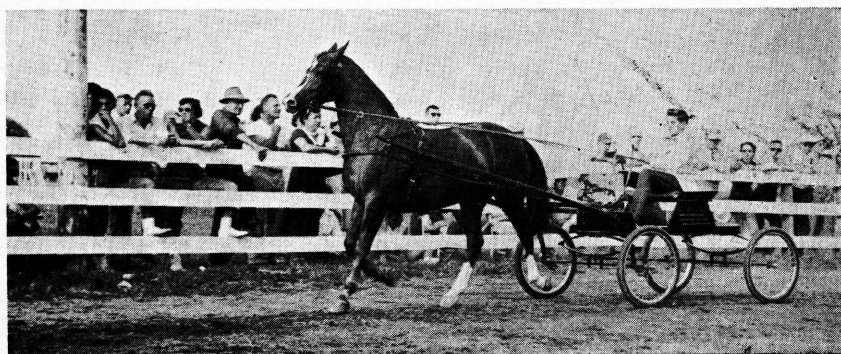
opposite direction. The best way to reverse is to turn your horse's head toward the rail (except Western horses) although either is permissible. You then do the same three gaits in the opposite direction. He will then say "Line up." Trot your horse to the middle of the ring and line up as he directs, either head to tail or facing one way. The judge may then ask for workouts of some horses whose placings he has not decided. The rest stay lined up.

There are a few things which you really have to know if you plan to show with credit, even in the smallest show. In any saddle class, English or Western, you must know the correct canter lead when circling, and how to put your horse into it smoothly from a walk. You must be able to back up at least four steps, smoothly and straight. In any English horsemanship class above the beginner's level, you have to know the correct diagonal on which to post when trotting in a circle, and how to change to the other diagonal. In any Western class, your horse must neck-rein gracefully and smoothly, with your reins held lightly and undivided in the palm of one hand.

Now, about results — don't be discouraged if you are not in the ribbons. Ask yourself these questions. Was my horse well-fitted? Was he sound? Did he move true and well? Did I ride him to his best advantage? Did I set him up square and pay attention every minute? Your answers may be "No" to some of these questions. If you can truly return a "Yes" to these questions, grin and try again. You've had fun, you and your horse have learned something, and there are more summers and more shows.

## Activities

Today, the horse is maintained chiefly for recreation. Since a person occasionally likes company on longer rides, groups of horse-minded people get together to plan activities to broaden their social contacts. Whether the group is local or sectional, or a breed organization, sooner or later someone comes up with the idea of planning an event in which all can participate. The spirit of competition soon arises, along with the question of judging training and riding skills. Thus, planning a horse show, trail ride, or gymkhana, becomes a committee job.



Horse shows can be simple or complex. The program should be arranged so that each rider can participate at least twice during the event. Whether it is to be an open or closed show is something for each group to decide. The more complex a show gets, the more committees are needed, so several organizations may act as co-sponsors to help man the event. The American Horse Shows Association will provide guidance.

Trail rides are fun for club members. A short ride can be held in an afternoon, an all-day ride with a lunch barbecue can be planned, and overnight rides are possible in some areas.

Gymkhanas have become increasingly popular with younger horse enthusiasts. Such events give owners a chance to develop coordination with their mounts. The setup for a gymkhana is important. Note these factors of safety for riders, animals, and the public: (1) Have a suitable ring with a substantial railing. (2) Plan ample space in which to successfully carry out planned events. (3) Good footing is of prime importance. (4) Have "in" and "out" gates. Be sure everyone brings his horse to a walk before leaving the ring. (5) Give proper instruction as to the course to be followed. (6) Mark definite starting and finish lines. (7) Use stop watches rather than watches with sweephands for timing events.

### SUGGESTED EVENTS

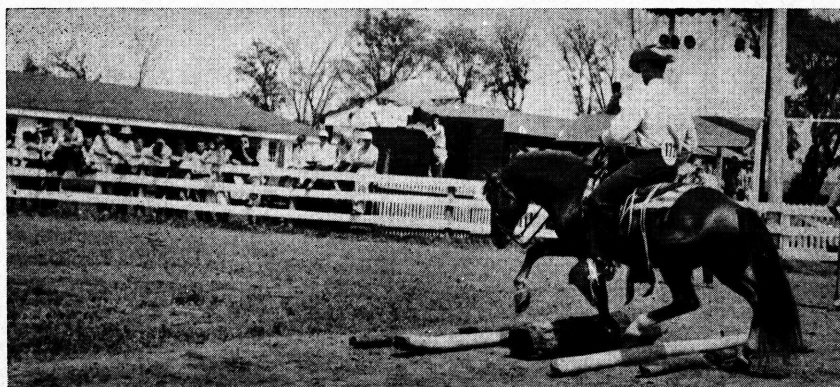
1. Horsemanship (by ages) — Eastern or Western.
2. Road hack — walk, trot, and canter.
3. Trail classes — Eastern and Western.
4. Obstacle course — Use your imagination.
5. Balloon Race — Each rider has a balloon tied about the waist. The object is to break the other contestants' balloons. A rider must withdraw from the ring when his balloon is broken. The last one with an unbroken balloon wins.
6. Flag Race — Use five flags, four stations. A single entry in the ring races against time. Riders must exchange flags at each station, and bring a flag back across the finish line. Use different colored flags so that flag exchanges can be easily determined.
7. Pole bending — A single entry is in the ring to figure-eight around a predetermined line of poles, against time. A knocked-down pole is a disqualification.
8. Potato Race — Three or four riders compete against time. Heat winners compete again to determine the winner. Equipment: two posts with boxes on top, and four blocks of wood in a box opposite the starting point. The rider goes down, gets a block, and brings it back to the box at the starting position, continuing until all blocks are in the box at the starting end.
9. Musical chairs — Boxes or bags may be safer than chairs. A Victrola plays fast music. All ride in one direction at a canter.



There is one less "chair" than there are competitors. The last pair ride to end of ring, leave horses with a holder, and race back to finish on foot. This game can be played with or without saddles.

10. Follow-the-leader — All ride in single file. Riders must do what the leader does or be eliminated. Things to do: take off hat, put hands on hips, drop stirrups, change gait, etc.
11. Tag — Use the same rules as the foot game. Tag the player, not the horse.
12. Chinese tag — The person who is tagged must hold with one hand the part of his body where he was tagged.
13. Cross tag — A player may cross between "It" and the one being chased. "It" then has to chase the person who crossed between them.
14. Broom polo — Each team member has a broom. A volley- or basketball is used. The object of the game is to drive the ball through the opponents' goal.
15. Walking race — The first contestant to cross line without his horse breaking into a trot is the winner.
16. Egg and spoon race — Ride around the ring at a walk with an egg on a spoon. After a full turn around the ring, the riders are called to a trot, and finally to a canter. No racing is allowed. A rider is out as soon as he loses the egg. He must hold the handle of the spoon; the fingers or thumbs may not touch the egg. Leave gum outside the ring.
17. Glass of water — Each rider is given a glass of water. Proceed at walk, trot, and canter. The rider having the most water remain in his glass at the end wins.
18. Tacking race — Put saddle, pad, and bridle in a pile. Lead horse to the opposite side of the ring by halter and rope. At the starting signal, all start for their equipment, tack up, and ride to the finish line.

You can think of many other games. However, for reference you might like the book, *Fun on Horseback*, by Margaret Cabell Self.



## Cost of Keeping a Pleasure Horse

Usually when one thinks about costs, the figures are lined up one under the other, either in the debit or the credit column. The final figure is quoted as net cost or net profit. In discussing the cost of keeping a pleasure horse, we consider the purpose for which we have the horse. The purpose is pleasure. The profit is also pleasure. The profit in owning a horse is the fun of riding, the satisfaction of caring for the horse, the friendship of an affectionate companion, and the long hours of relaxation when the trials of earning a living are forgotten.

But horses do eat and they do cost money to support. We will, therefore, list some of the things to remember in figuring the cost of keeping a thousand pound horse. We are going to assume that you already own him, that he is a saddler and/or a driver, and that you are not interested in a show or race horse, or the expenses of showing or racing.

The horse will require housing, feed (grain and hay), pasture, bedding, shoeing, and veterinary care. Housing can be as expensive or as modest as one wishes, and has been discussed elsewhere.

### COST OF FEEDING

The following are only rules of thumb to be used as guides in feeding a horse, since conditions vary with the horse's size, age, and condition, with the amount and regularity of exercise, and with the quality and kind of forage used.

1. For horses at light work — Feed about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of grain (base is oats) and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of hay per 100 lbs. of live weight.
2. For horses at medium work — Feed about one lb. of grain (oats) and one to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lbs. of hay per 100 lbs. of live weight.
3. For horses at hard work — Feed about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of grain (oats) and one lb. of hay per 100 lbs. of live weight.

At present a bushel of 40 pounds grade oats costs \$1.10 per bushel, making the cost of feeding a 1000-pound horse his oats at medium work per day about \$.34 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The cost of a ton of good horse hay is about \$50.00 per ton, or \$.02 $\frac{1}{2}$  per pound. Therefore, the cost of the hay ration per day for a 1000-pound horse would be about \$.28.

### COST OF BEDDING

In his box stall, the horse should be bedded deeply with new bedding placed in the center, with some covering around the edge. The horse may work the bedding to the outside in his stall exercise. Sort over the bedding each morning or on each trip to the stall by throwing good bedding to one side; this will make it easier to remove droppings and wet spots, and will conserve bedding.

Bedding may be shavings, sawdust, straw, peat moss, or other dry, absorbing material. For example, coarse peat moss is an excellent bed-



ding, and makes a most comfortable bed when spread deeply and carefully. Peat moss currently costs about \$3.75 for a large bale. About two bales a month would be the estimated maximum needed.

#### COST OF PASTURE AND BOARDING

You should have from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  acres per horse for exercise and pasture. If not, and you wish to leave your horse in competent care while on vacation or during the off season, it is possible to hire pasture plus some grain and care for about \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day.

#### COST OF FEET CARE

We strongly advocate good care of the horse's feet. It is unfair to the horse to allow him to go uncared for or unshod. Horses' hooves cannot stand the impact of hard roads. We are reminded of the anonymous English hostler who said, "It h'ain't the 'eavy 'auling that 'urts the 'orses 'oooves; it's the 'ammer, 'ammer, 'ammer on the 'ard, 'ard 'ighway."

It certainly does not help good relationships with your neighbors to ride your horse across their lawns or fields to save the "'orses 'oooves." Therefore, in order to protect the horse, feet should be trimmed and shoes reset at about 6 to 8 week intervals, by a competent blacksmith. The life of the horse and the pleasure derived from him will be extended, as he may then be used on hard roads, frozen ground, and slippery going. At the present time, a horse can be shod with a complete set of new shoes for about \$10.00.

#### COST OF VETERINARY SERVICE

Horses, like humans, do get sick. They need protection from diseases like tetanus, sleeping sickness, and shipping fever. A veterinarian is both your and your horse's best friend; about \$30.00 a year should be set aside for his fees, and medicines.

### Cost of Tack

Again, the cost of bridles, saddles, blankets, buggies, exercise carts, and equipment can be as economical as you wish, or as expensive as you can afford. By careful buying of second-hand equipment, you may get started very economically, providing that you like it plain. If you like it fancy, then your costs will be fancy.

The costs mentioned above are in many instances maximum. A little shopping on your part may uncover cheaper sources of good quality feed and bedding. Anyone brought up with a horse will not likely let the cost of ownership deter him from acquiring another for himself, his children, or even his grandchildren.

As the world goes faster, and pressures become greater, recreation and relaxation become more important. Horse ownership provides

such an outlet, as well as the satisfaction of physical recreation. Long after competitive sports have passed you by, horsemanship still lies open as a field of recreation, and recognizes no age limits. Two-year-old children commonly appear in the leadline classes at local shows, and three generations often ride in a group in the family classes.

Regardless of your age, suitable groups of pleasure horse owners are to be found in or near your community which will welcome your active participation. Riding and driving clubs for adults are scattered throughout New England. 4-H Horse Clubs and Pony Clubs are available in nearly all areas for children.

The axiom is still true that "there is something about the outside of a horse, that is good for the inside of a man."

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## Glossary

### Blemishes and Unsoundnesses

- Boggy in hocks — Bog spavins.
- Bog spavins — Soft swellings in or about hocks. Also referred to as "boggy in hocks."
- Bowed tendon — Enlarged tendon back of the cannon, due to injury.
- Broken knees — Knees, much enlarged, with the skin broken from a fall or a bruise.
- Buck knees — Knees bent forward when standing.
- Capped hock — Enlargement of the point of the hock, caused by a bruise of the bursa.
- Cock ankle — The horse stands bent forward on the fetlocks, usually the hind ones.
- Coon footed — Long, very low pasterns.
- Cow hocks — Stands with hocks together, toes out.
- Cribber — Animal which bites or sets the teeth against something and "sucks" wind.
- Cross firing — Hitting one of the forefeet with the opposite hind foot when traveling.
- Curb — An injury or sprain of the ligament at the back of the hock, usually causes an enlargement.
- Ewe neck — A deficiency of muscling causing a depression at the top of the neck just in front of the withers.
- Fistula — Fistulous withers. An abscess occurring in the region of the withers.
- Forging — Striking the front shoes with the toe of the hind ones.
- Founder — Laminitis. Inflammation of the feet causing lameness.
- Goose rump — A short, steep croup which is narrow at point of the buttock.
- Halter puller — A horse that pulls back on halter rope.
- Heavey — Having the heaves or broken wind.
- Hitching — Having a shorter stride in one hind leg than the other.
- Interfering — Striking the fetlock or cannon with the opposite foot as it passes, either in front or behind.
- Jack — A bone spavin.

- Paddle — Winging out with the front feet.
- Puffs — Wind galls, bog spavins, or thoroughpins.
- Quarter crack — A vertical crack on the side of the hoof, often running to coronet.
- Ringbone — A bony growth on the upper or lower pastern bones; most always causes lameness.
- Roarer — Defective in wind, noisy inspiration.
- Scalping — When speeding, the horse strikes the front side of the hind coronet, pastern, or cannon against the front toe. (Also applied to a trader who buys and sells animals on the market.)
- Scratches — Skin disease in back of pasterns.
- Shoe boil — A bruise at elbow which results in an enlargement caused by the animal's lying on his foot in such a way that the heel of the shoe strikes the elbow.
- Sickle hock — Too much bend in the hock. A conformation predisposed to curb.
- Side bone — An ossified lateral cartilage occurring on either side at the top of the foot.
- Splint — A bony growth on the cannon bone occurring most often on the front legs, most often on the inside.
- Stringy — String-halt — A convulsive action in the hind legs, flexing either one or both up with a jerk.
- Thoroughpin — Puffiness occurring in the web of the hock.
- Thrush — A disease of frog with characteristic odor.
- Tongue-loller — A horse whose tongue hangs out.
- Wall-eye — The iris a pearly-white color, due to a lack of pigment. Sometimes called glass-eye.
- Weaver — A horse that continually sways back and forth when standing in the stall.
- Wind galls — Puffs occurring at the upper part of the fetlock joints.
- Windy — A horse that whistles or roars when exerted.
- Winging — Throwing the front feet out when traveling.

### Feed Equivalents

- Corn — Three medium sized ears yield about 1 pound of grain.
- Corn — One quart, or a 1 pound coffee can full weighs about 2 pounds.
- Barley — One quart, or a 1 pound coffee can full weighs about 2 lbs.
- Rolled Oats — One quart, or a 1 pound coffee can full weighs about 9/10 pound.
- Whole Oats — One quart, or a 1 pound coffee can full weighs about 1 1/4 pounds.
- Horse feed — One quart, or a 1 pound coffee can full weighs about 1 pound.
- Hay — Most field bales, in this area, weigh around 40 pounds.



Disease	Symptoms	Prevention	Treatment
<b>Impaction or Obstruction Colic</b> <i>Diagnose by suppling &amp; blocked</i>	Lack of appetite, constipation. Toxic signs, such as red eyes. At times, yellowness of mucous membranes. High temperature.	Prevent overeating. Give regular work. Do not fatigue after winter rest.	Reduce impaction with enemas and oily laxatives.
<b>Flatulent Colic</b> (Due to excessive gas formation) <i>a belly ache</i>	Intermittent pain. Animal alternates between lying down and standing. Strains as if to urinate. Stamping, general restlessness, sweating.	Do not change food too rapidly. Prevent overeating, excessive drinking, fatigue. Avoid feeding damaged food.	Keep horse walking when pain is severe. Thrashing may rupture intestine. Call veterinarian immediately.
<b>Laminitis</b> (Founder)	Acute lameness in one or more feet, usually forefeet. Animal tries to support entire body with hind feet, which are drawn up underneath body. Sweats in patches from pain. Affected feet hot, sensitive to tapping. Body temperature may rise to 106° F.	Do not allow excessive drinking of cold water, overeating. Don't truck too long a distance. Prevent inflammation of uterus.	Applications of cold water to affected feet is the best first aid measure.
<b>Azoturia (Blackwater, Monday Morning Disease)</b>	Sudden lameness, usually in hind legs, when first starting to work; muscle firm over hindquarters, profuse sweating, coffee colored urine.	Reduce grain feeding to horses not working. Provide regular exercise.	Stop horse immediately when symptoms appear, to allow rest. Any further movement may result in permanent damage.
<b>Sunstroke</b>	At work, horse gradually shows dullness, stumbling, increased breathing. Skin becomes dry. Temperature, 106-111° F. Restlessness, convulsions, coma may follow.	Do not work too hard under hot sun.	Sedatives to control spasms. place animal in cool, dark place. Use cold packs on head.

Disease	Symptoms	Prevention	Treatment
<b>Equine Periodic Ophthalmia</b> (Moon Blindness)	Inflammation of eyes, discharge of tears, stumbling. Eyes periodically cloudy, and opaque. More damage by each attack, eventual blindness.	Forty mgs. of riboflavin daily on feed.	None specific. Soothing applications to eyes. Darken stall during attack.
<b>Equine Encephalomyelitis</b> (Sleeping sickness)	Mental dullness, derangement, incoordination. Stumbling, walking in circles, paralysis of hind legs; paralysis of throat, inability to swallow.	Excellent vaccine available; horses vaccinated each spring.	None specific. Good nursing, care in feeding, bedding, grooming, rest, etc.
<b>Tetanus (Lockjaw)</b>	Stiff joints. General muscle spasms. Hypersensitivity to sound. Difficulty in chewing, swallowing. Profuse sweat.	Tetanus toxoid gives long immunity. Booster shots may be necessary.	Antitoxin in massive doses may help early in disease.
<b>Strangles</b> (Distemper)	Sudden depression lack of appetite, high temperature. Eyes and nose congested with copious discharge. Hot, painful abscess formation in throat region. Dry, hacking cough.	Draft-free stables. Clean food and water containers. Clean bedding.	Antibiotics or sulfonamides, and good nursing will save most cases. Bathe eyes and nostrils with boric acid solution.
<b>Poll Evil and Fistulous Withers</b>	Area immediately behind ears or highest point of the withers becomes swollen, hot, painful. Ruptures, discharging pus containing yellow granules.	Check halters, bridles for better fit. High ceiling prevents hitting poll. Check collar or saddle for cause of irritation.	Establish drainage. Judicious use of antibiotics. Surgery in selected cases.
<b>Equine Influenza</b>	Similar to Strangles, except process tends to migrate into lungs, causing pneumonia.	No specific immunizing agent known. Good sanitation, management are vital.	Antibiotics will not affect this virus, but may control secondary invaders. Good nursing.



